

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06839 011331Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-10 PA-01 EUR-12 /049 W
-----123525 011335Z /72

O R 011245Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
SECSTATE WASHDC 1314

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHAN COUP

REF: KABUL 3320

1. THE NEW DELHI PRESS COMMENTED ONLY ON APRIL 29 ON THE COUP IN AFGHANISTAN. NOTING THAT ALTHOUGH DAOUD ABOLISHED THE MONARCHY, HE WAS HIMSELF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OLD REGIME, MOST EDITORIALS RELATED THE FACTS OF HIS FALL AS THEY KNEW THEM. A FEW SPECULATED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE COUP HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BY LEFTISTS, BUT ALL CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE THE POLITICAL COMPLEXION OF THE NEW REGIME. THE PRO-MOSCOW "PATRIOT" ADDED THAT THE EARLY STATEMENTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OF THE ARMED FORCES RESEMBLED THOSE ISSUED BY DAOUD AFTER HIS 1973 COUP. MOST EDITORIALS NOTED THE NEW REGIME'S PROFESSED ADHERENCE TO NON-ALIGNMENT, AND THE "STATESMAN" SAW NO REASON WHY CORDIAL KABUL-NEW DELHI RELATIONS SHOULD NOT CONTINUE UNDER THE NEW REGIME. SEVERAL EDITORIALS WONDERED WHETHER THE KABUL NON-ALIGNED MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE.

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2. ONLY MRS. GANDHI'S "NATIONAL HERALD" EULOGIZED DAOUD, CALLING HIM AN "ABLE LEADER" AND A "FRIEND" OF THE NON-ALIGNED WORLD. IT BRANDED THE MANNER OF HIS FALL "A BLOT ON HUMAN CIVILIZATION" AND DISMISSED COL. QADER'S STATEMENTS THAT AFGHAN DOMESTIC POLICY WOULD REST ON PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM, DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM

AND PROSPERITY. QADER'S FIRST INTEREST, THE "NATIONAL
HERALD" WROTE, "WILL BE TO REMAIN IN POWER."
GOHEEN

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